

REMARKS

In the Office Action of March 18, 2004, the abstract was objected to for exceeding 150 words; claims 104, 105, 114, 119, and 120 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; and claims 91-103, 106-113, 115-118, and 121-123 were allowed.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 91-103, 106-113, 115-118, and 121-123. By this Reply, Applicant has amended claim 106 to correct a typographical error and has rewritten claims 104, 105, 114, 119, and 120 to independent form. No new matter has been added by this Reply. Claims 91-123 are pending in this application.

Applicant has amended the abstract to contain fewer than 150 words. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the objection to the abstract be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 104, 105, 114, 115, 119, and 120 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 104 and 105 have been rewritten to independent form and include the allowed subject matter of claim 91. Claim 114 has been rewritten to independent form and includes the allowed subject matter of claim 106. Claim 115 has been rewritten to independent form and includes the allowed subject matter of claim 95. Claims 119 and 120 have been rewritten to independent form and include the allowed subject matter of claim 117. Applicants submit that independent claims 104, 105, 114, 115, 119, and 120 include proper independent claim format and particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, which Applicant regards as the invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of

claims 104, 105, 114, 115, 119, and 120 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicant does not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicant declines to subscribe to any statement or characterization of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully request that this Reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 104, 105, 114, 115, 119, and 120 in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments of claims 104, 105, 114, 115, 119, and 120 do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Reply should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of the claim amendments, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Finally, Applicants submit that the entry of the claim amendments would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account no. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
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